

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
  - (A) receiving, at an e-mail control at a local server, a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;
  - (B) storing, by the e-mail control, each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages, in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server;
  - (C) storing, by the e-mail control, a message identifier for each e-mail message, in a message identifier storage at the local server; and
  - (D) determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server ~~by comparing the message identifiers of the external e-mail server with the message identifier of the consolidated e-mail storage, and if a match is found, and if so,~~ then deleting the corresponding e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage of the local e-mail server.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing ~~steps~~ (A), (B), (C) and (D) for at least one next external e-mail server.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step~~, responsive to a user command, ~~of~~ providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~ determining includes comparing message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a ~~step of~~ the local server connecting to the external e-mail server, as the user.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a ~~step of~~ requesting, from the external e-mail server, e-mail messages for the user.
8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining ~~step~~ includes comparing the message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to the message identifiers in the message identifier storage, and if a message identifier for an e-mail in the consolidated storage no longer has a counterpart on the external server then said e-mail is removed from the local server.
9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining ~~step~~ includes comparing the message identifiers in the message identifier storage to the message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
- (A) a local server connecting to an external e-mail server, as the user; and requesting e-mail messages for the user;
  - (B) receiving, at an e-mail control at the local server, a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from the external e-mail server;
  - (C) storing, by the e-mail control, each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages, in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users;
  - (D) storing, by the e-mail control, message identifier for each external e-mail message, in a message identifier storage at the local server;
  - (E) determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server, including comparing message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server; and if so, then deleting the e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage;
  - (F) responsive to a user command, providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user; and

(G) wherein steps (B), (C) (D) and (E) are performed for at least one next external e-mail server.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the determining step includes comparing ~~the~~ message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to ~~the~~ message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the determining step includes comparing ~~the~~ message identifiers in the message identifier storage to ~~the~~ message identifiers of in e-mail ~~in the consolidated e-mail storage~~ received from the external server.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising:

(A) an e-mail control at a local server, for receiving a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

(B) consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages;

(C) message identifier storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having a message identifier for each external e-mail message; and

(D) the consolidated e-mail storage having at least two states, including a first state having at least one e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server; and a second state having no e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server.

14. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein there are provided a plurality of external e-mail servers having e-mail messages for the user.

15. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13, including a user command for providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user.

16. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users.

17. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the local server is connected to the external e-mail server via a POP3 connection, as the user.

19. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the e-mail messages that are received from the external e-mail server, are e-mail messages for the user.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to ~~the~~ message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

21. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers ~~in the message identifier storage~~ of e-mail on the external e-mail server to ~~the~~ message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising:

(A) an e-mail control at a local server, for receiving a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

(B) consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages;

(C) message identifier storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, to store a message identifier for each external e-mail message;

(D) the consolidated e-mail storage having at least two states, including a first state having at least one e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server; and a second state having no e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server;

(E) wherein there are provided a plurality of external e-mail servers having e-mail messages for the user;

(F) a user command for providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user;

(G) wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users; and

(H) wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.

23. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to ~~the~~ message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

24. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to ~~the~~ message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.